

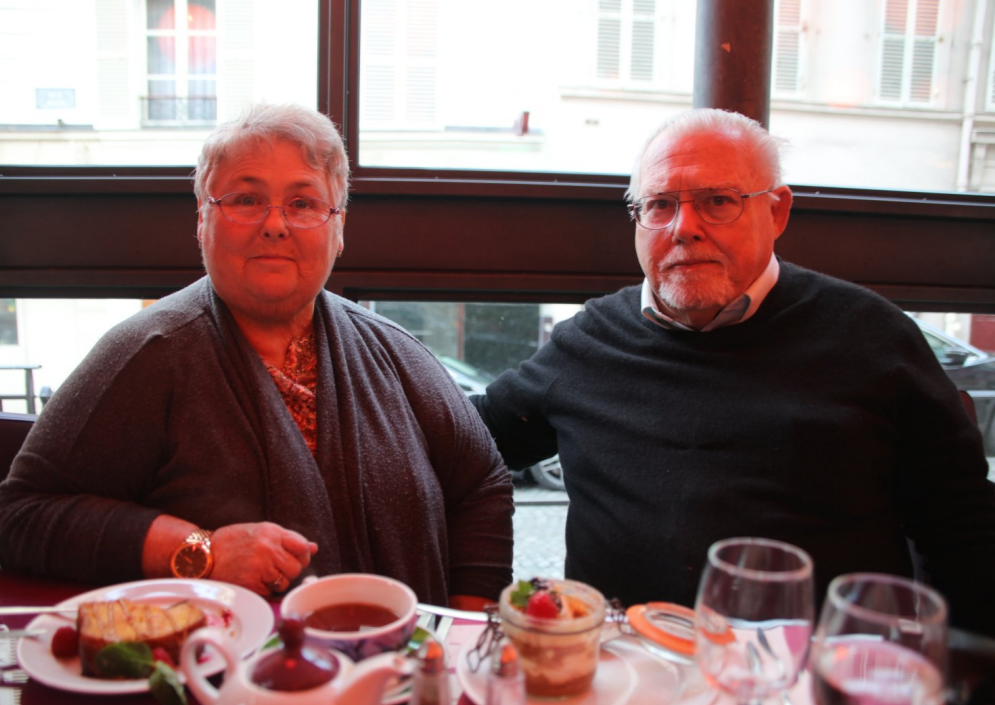


France and England
Jan.3 - Jan. 10, 2016
or rather,
Paris and a one day trip to London!



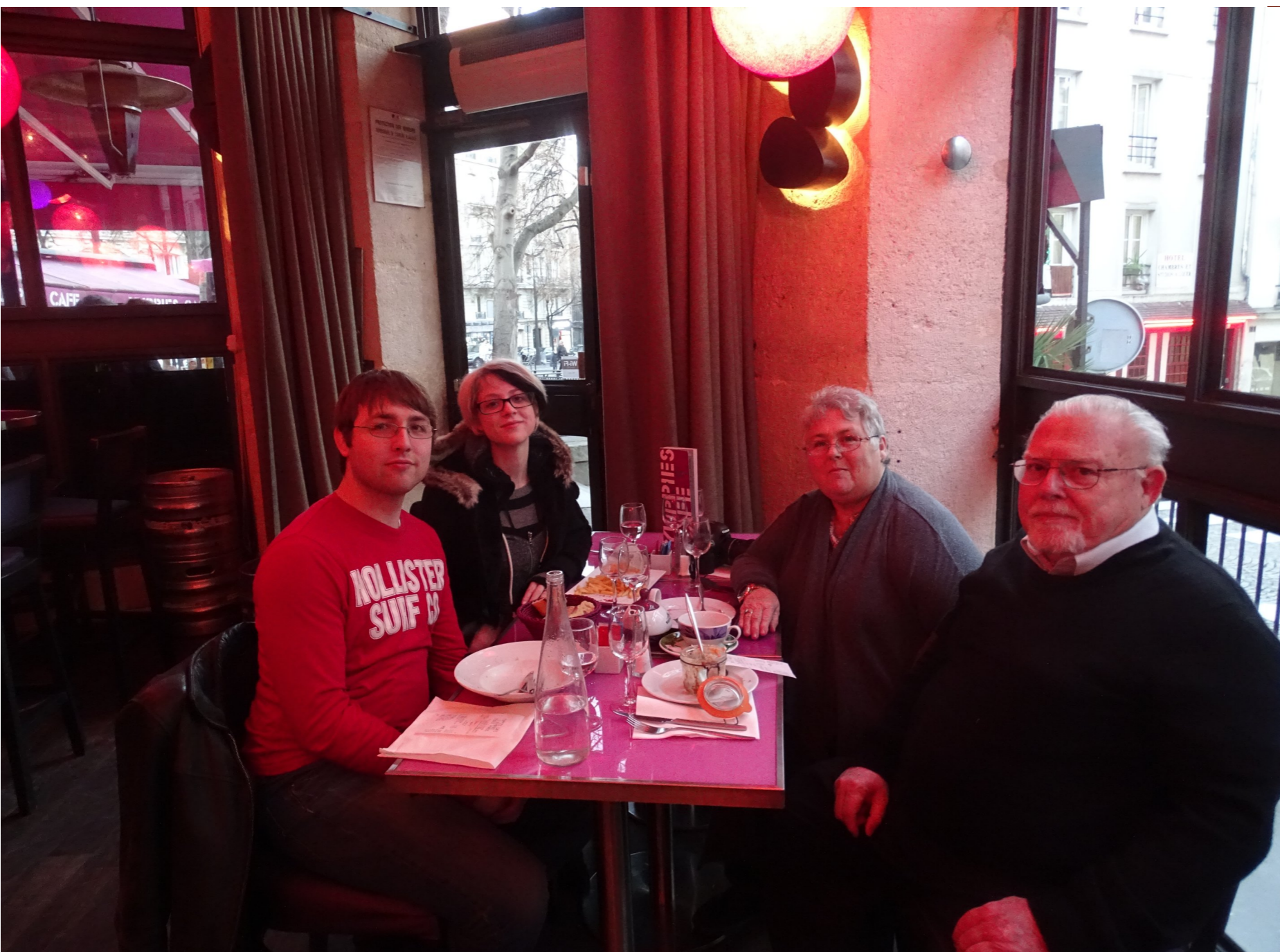


We arrived in Paris on time and tired from an 8 hour flight. Our hotel was exactly what we had envisioned - a small Paris Boutique place where we were repeatedly thanked for coming in the aftermath of the terrorist attack. Our oldest grandson, Grant and his finance, Hannah traveled with us on this trip.



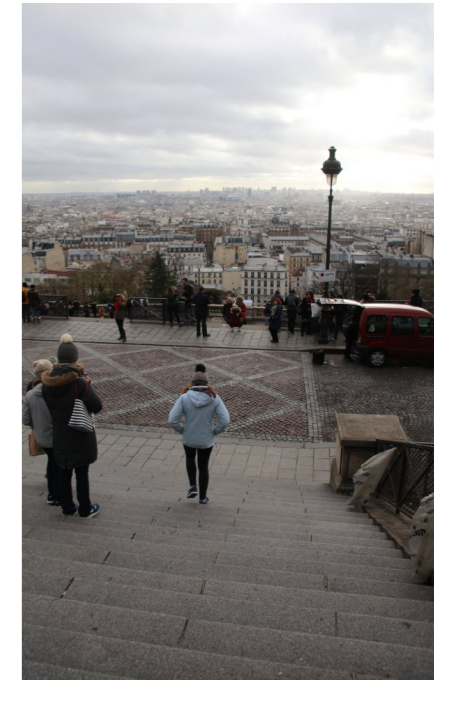


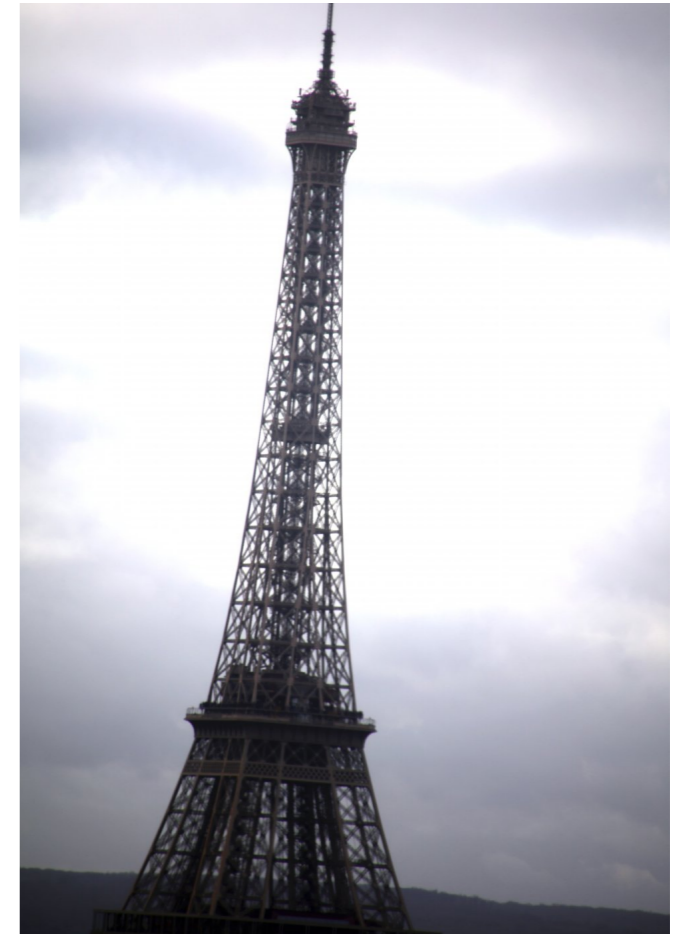
We walked to the Arc and had a meal in a great crepe place. It was glorious beginning to what would be a most wonderful week. We were so struck by the friendliness of the people and the incredible European landscape. Our first impression of Paris was exactly what we had wanted and thought it would be.





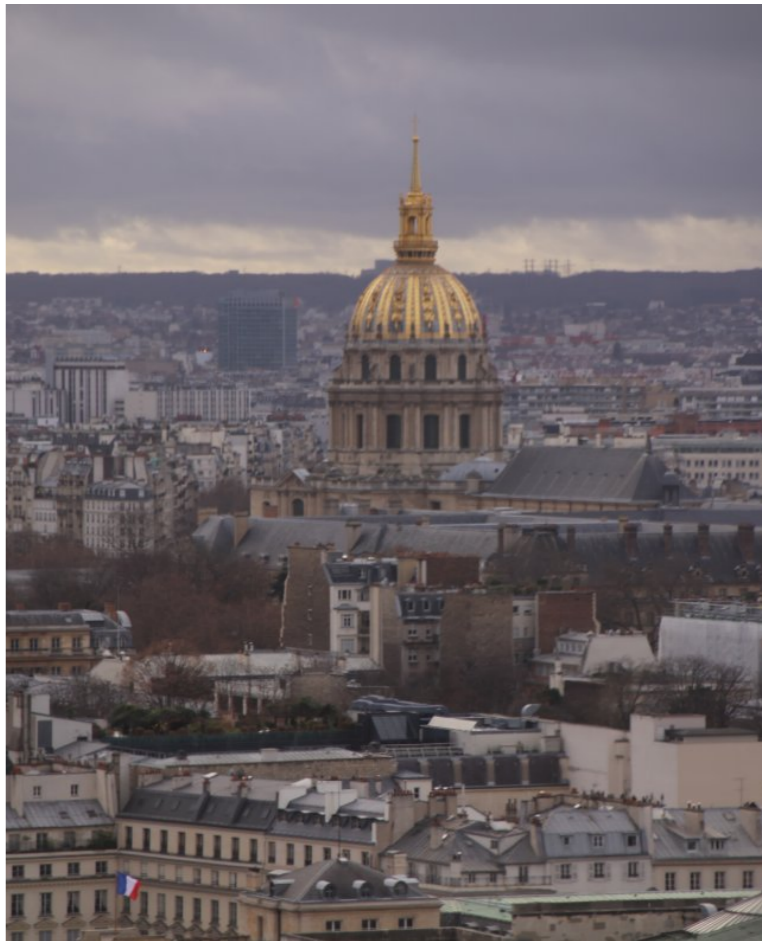
Wow!!! What a day!! We went to the Beautiful Sacre-Coeur where we climbed so many steps and enjoyed the great view.





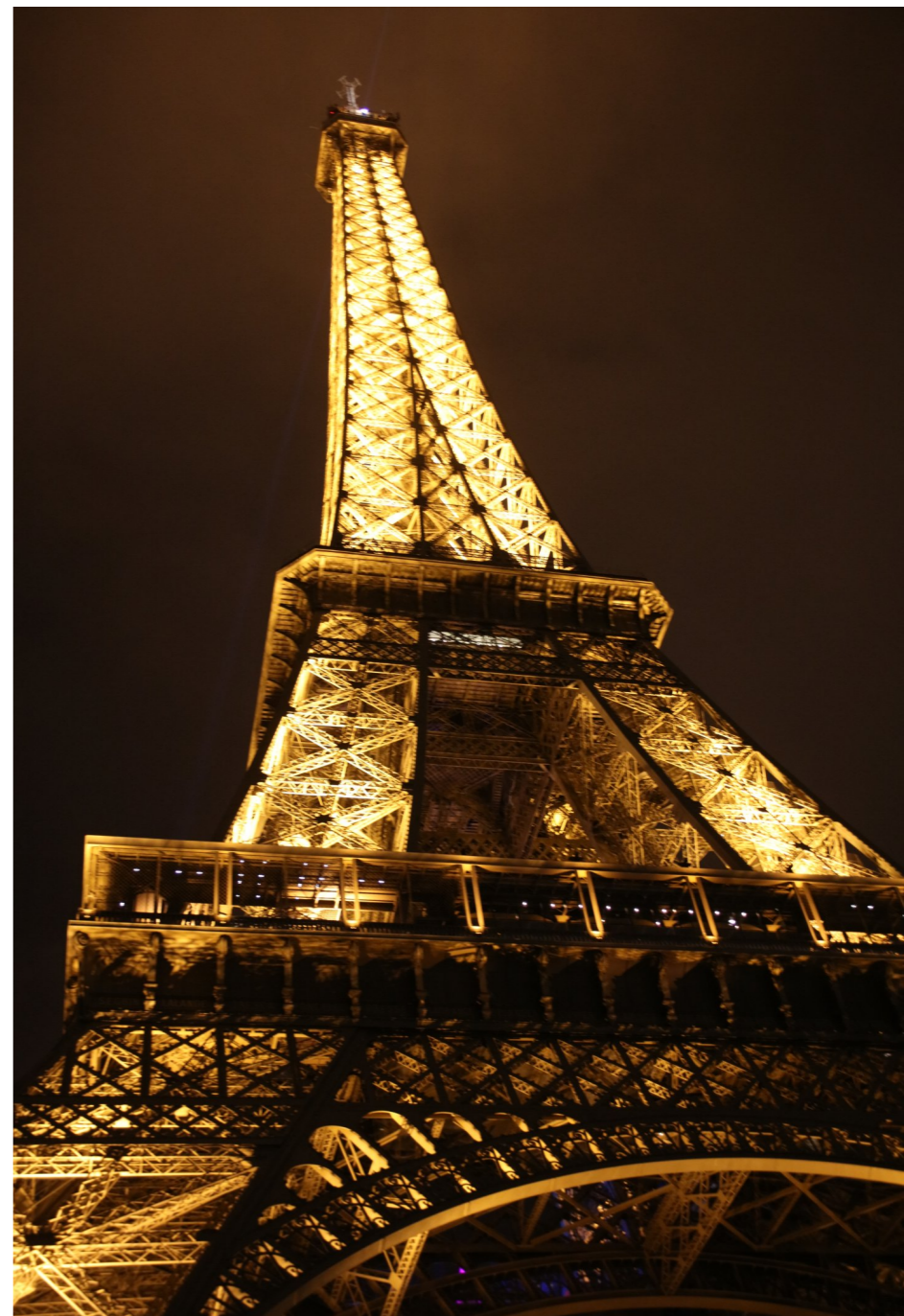
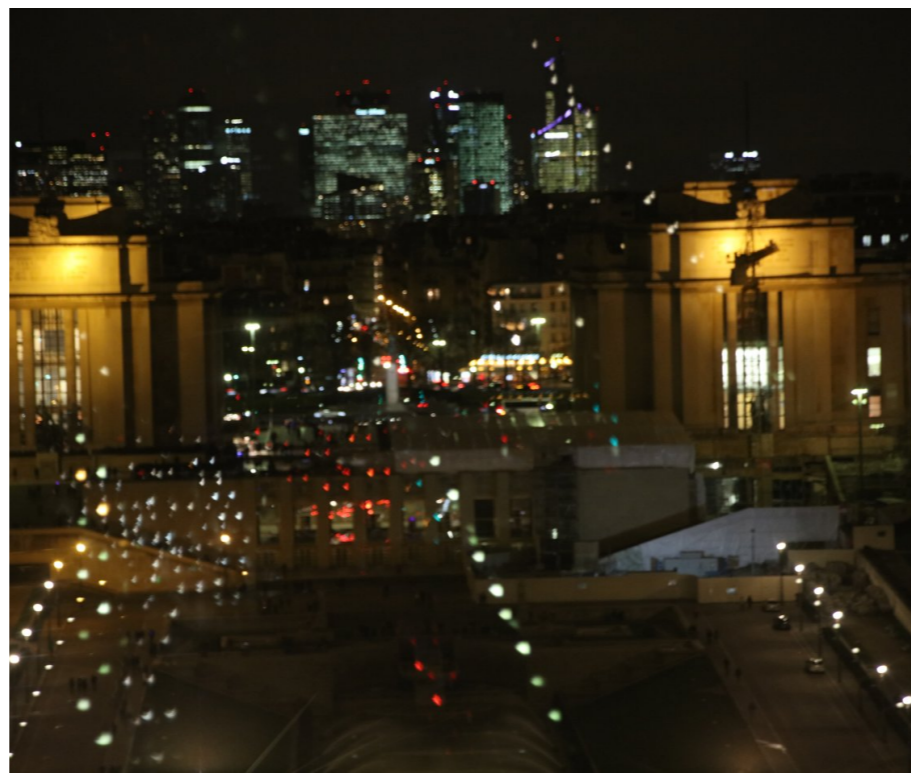
We went to the Ferris Wheel and rode it taking wonderful pictures from the top.



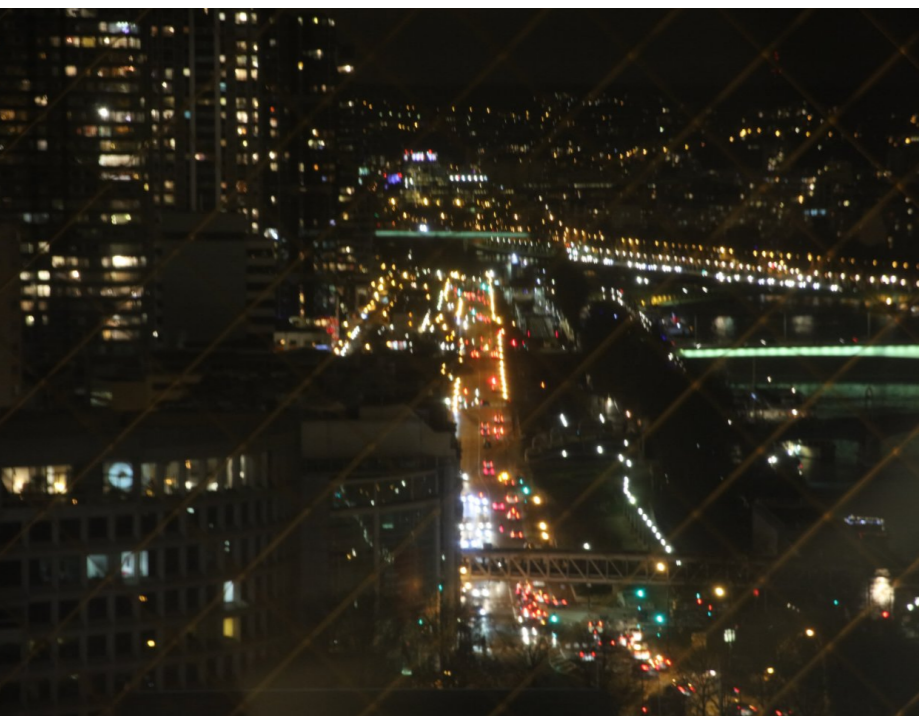




A bicycle drawn cart ride down the Champs de Elysees led us back to the Arc and then to the hotel to get ready for dinner at the Eiffel Tower followed by the Moulin Rouge. Not certain how any day could be better but the others were just as great.



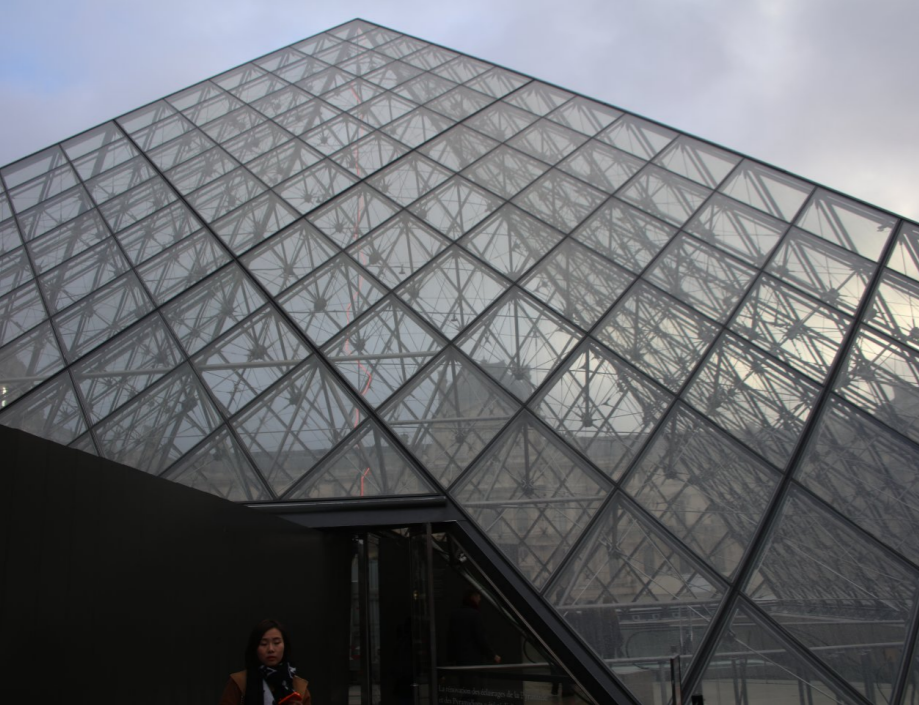


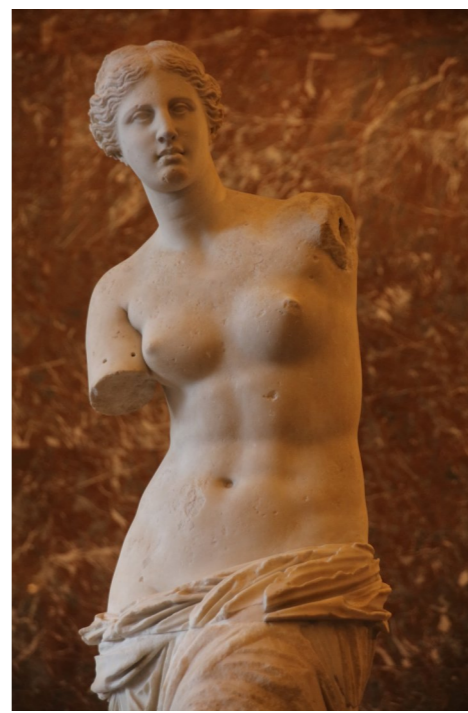






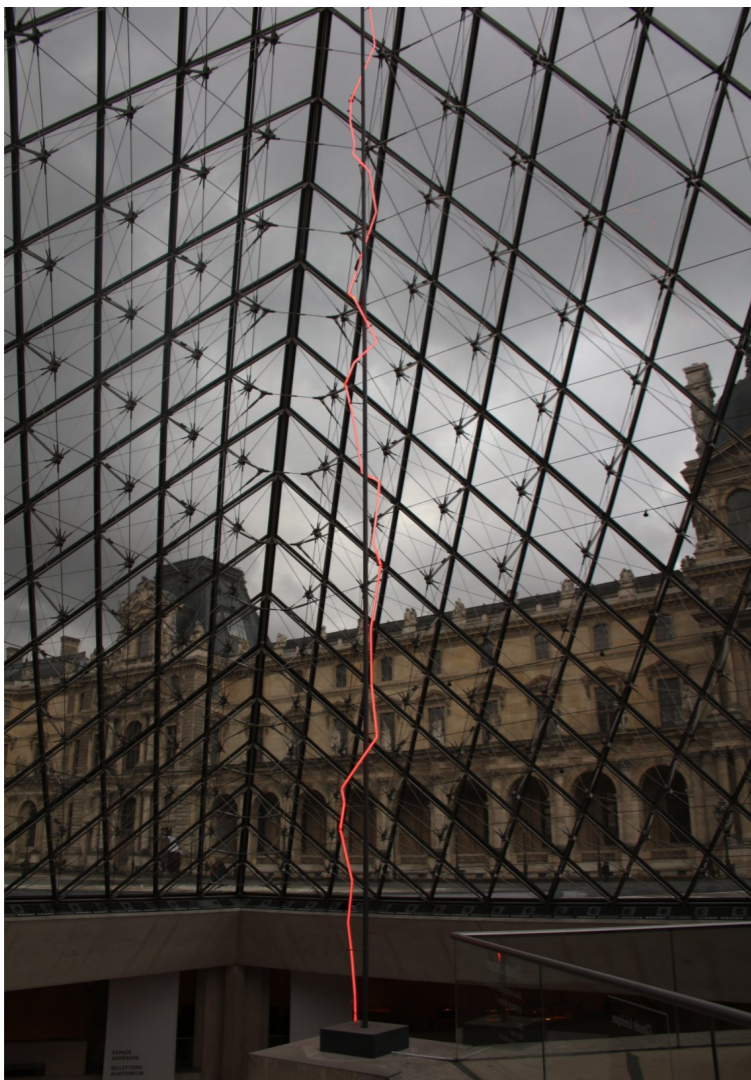
Today - well we went to the Louvre! We had read, seen books, movies and thought we would not be caught off guard but we were wrong. The Mona Lisa in person was the most impressive art piece I have ever seen She was incredible as were the Venus and every thing else. I could not get over seeing real unchanged sculptures that were 2000 plus years old. It is a memory we will never ever forget. The Lido was similar to the Moulin Rouge but yet more artsy and different. Linda and I danced to Elvis music in the pre show for about 10 seconds and then she turned her ankle but still it is my best memory. We took Grant and Hannah - our oldest grandson and his young fiancé with us this trip and their joy was wonderful to behold. They say I got a buzz on and maybe so as for once I think I may have allowed myself to be a little free. We ended the night with Grand Mariner crepes - wow!





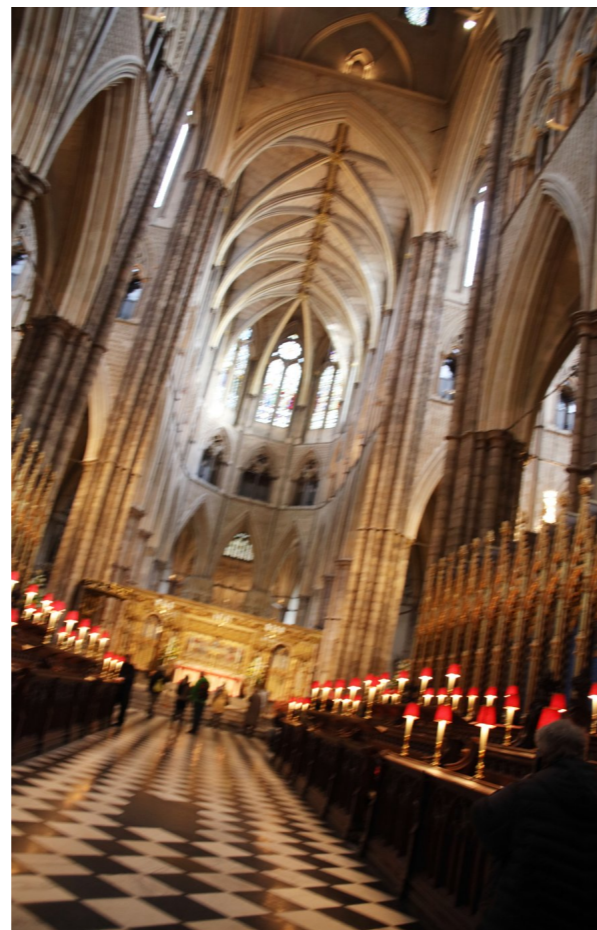












London for the day!

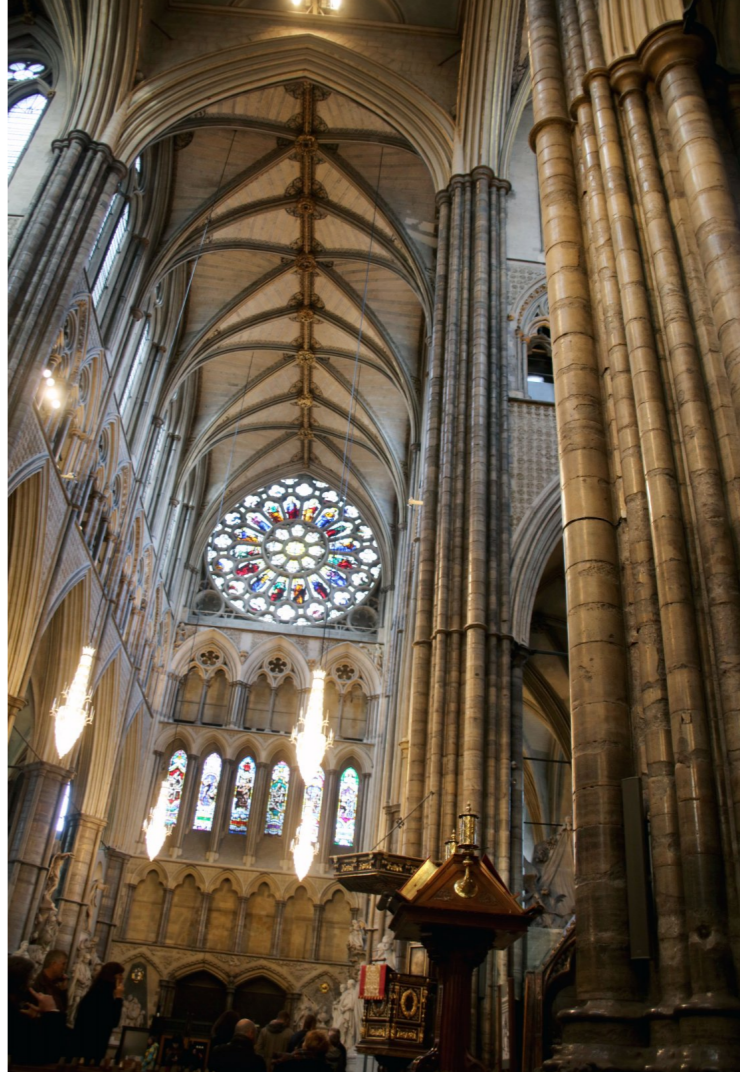
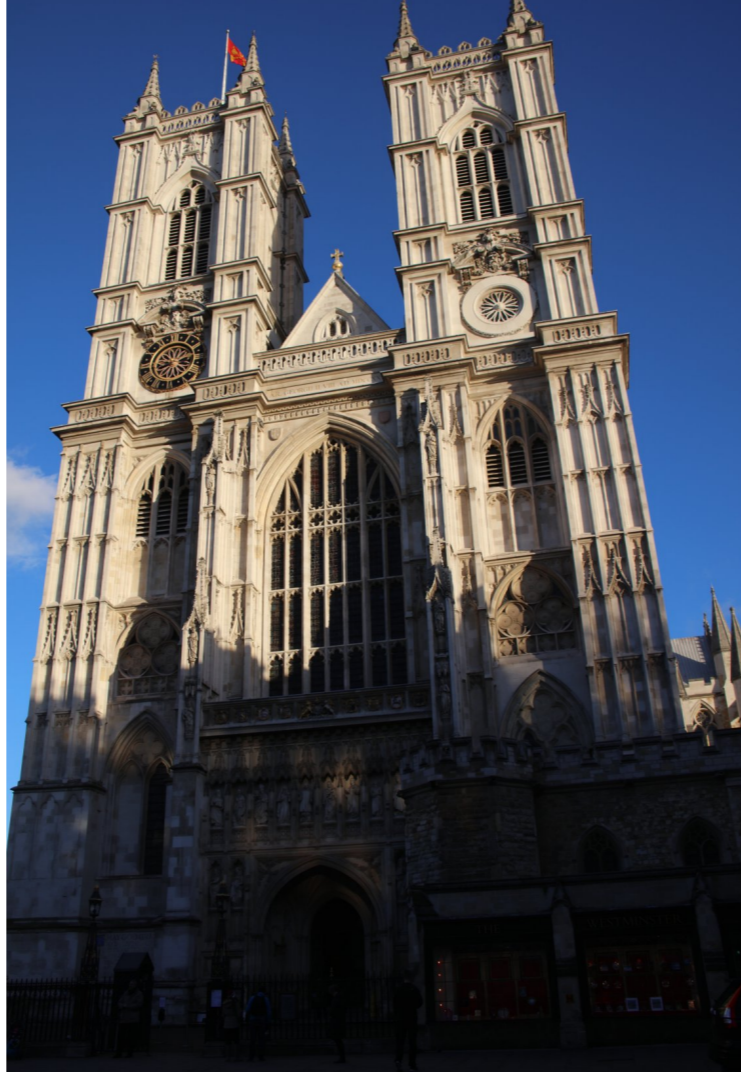
We got up early and took the "bullet" train to London. The ride was smooth and fast -very fast. It was raining cats and dogs when we got there and our spirits were not dampened - after all we were in London, England. We stopped and really visited St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey. Grant and Hannah rode the Eye - Linda and I took a great cabbie back to a very cold train station where we had - yes - wait for it - fish and chips which were wonderful. We were tired but had a nice trip back to Paris and had a small adventure getting back to the hotel! Wonderful day despite first the rain, then the cold clear sun and a less than adequate tour group. It was a very nice experience.



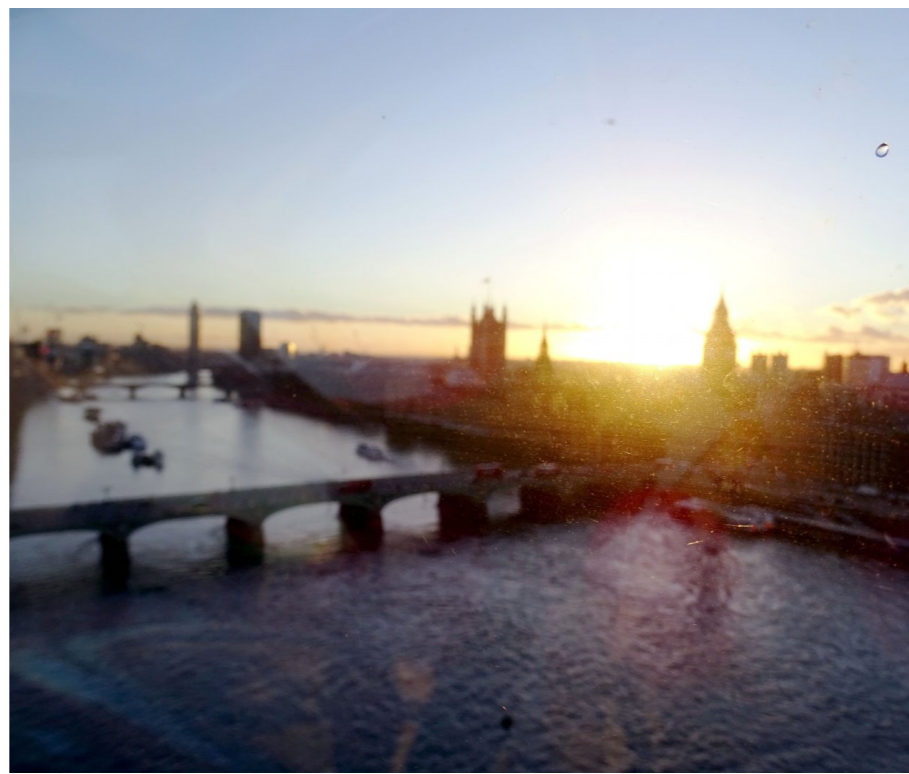
















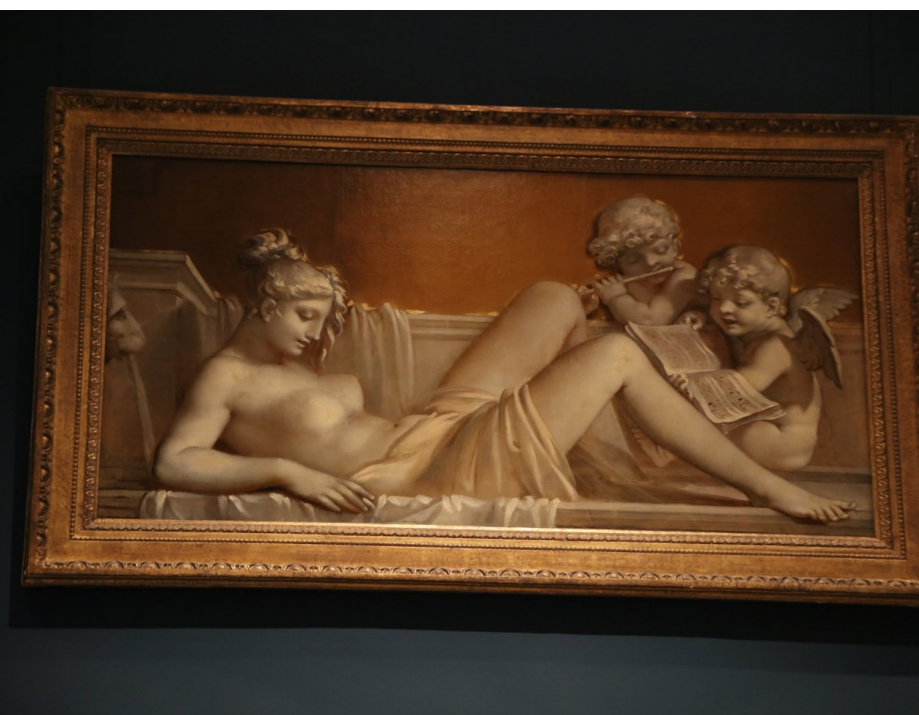
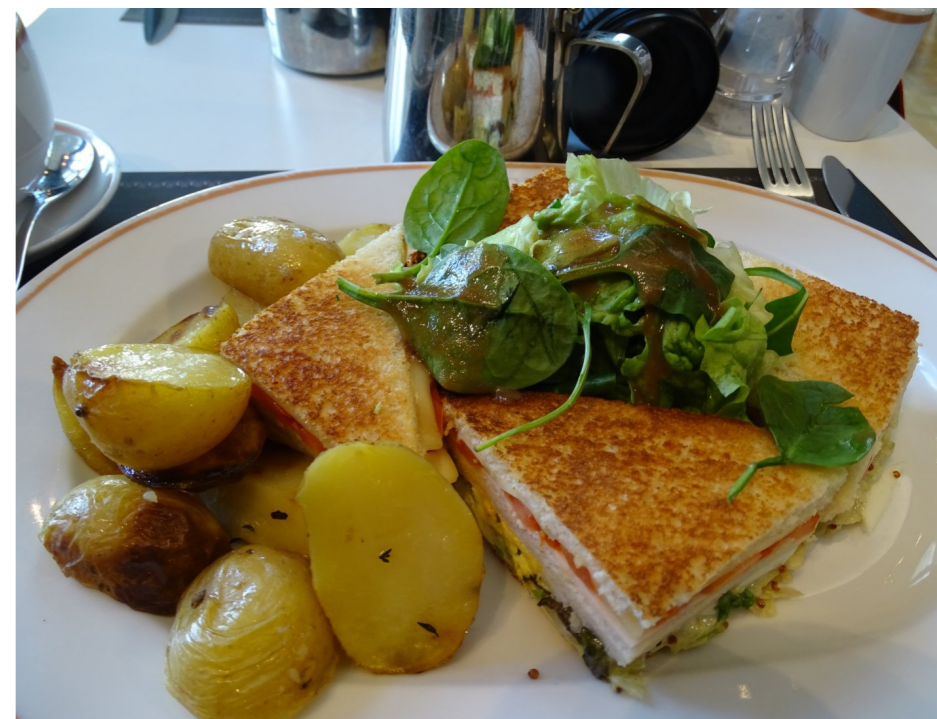
Well this was to be a day where Grant and Hannah and Linda and I could do anything we wanted to just so it was alone with our respective partner. For the most part, it was such a day. Linda and I went back to the Louvre and saw the Napoleon Apartment and were greeted by name by two very nice security guards. We had given them our card with our web site address two days earlier and they still remembered us. That was really nice. We then went to Notre Dame where I fell and slightly injured a knee but had a glorious visit. Grant and Hannah pleasantly surprised us there. They then walked to our hotel from the Parris Ferris Wheel - 3 plus miles. We took a taxi. Again, we had a glorious day with each other in Paris, France. What more could you want - well ice in any drink would have been nice. Really, the trip had and would continue to be perfect in every way.



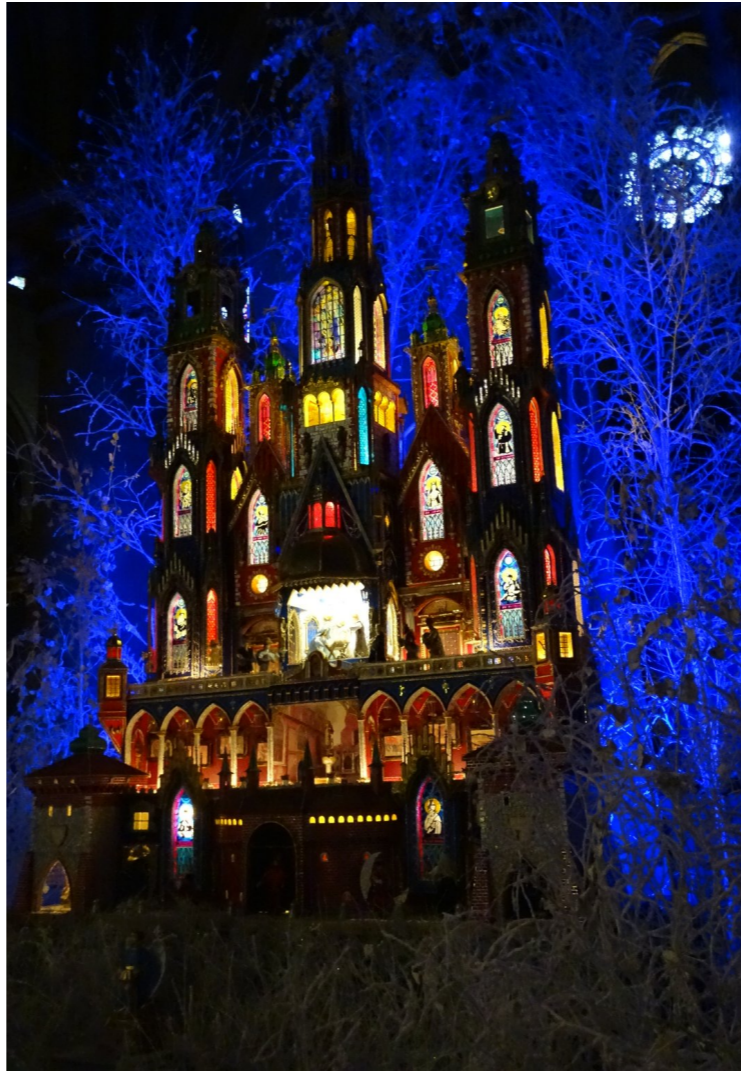








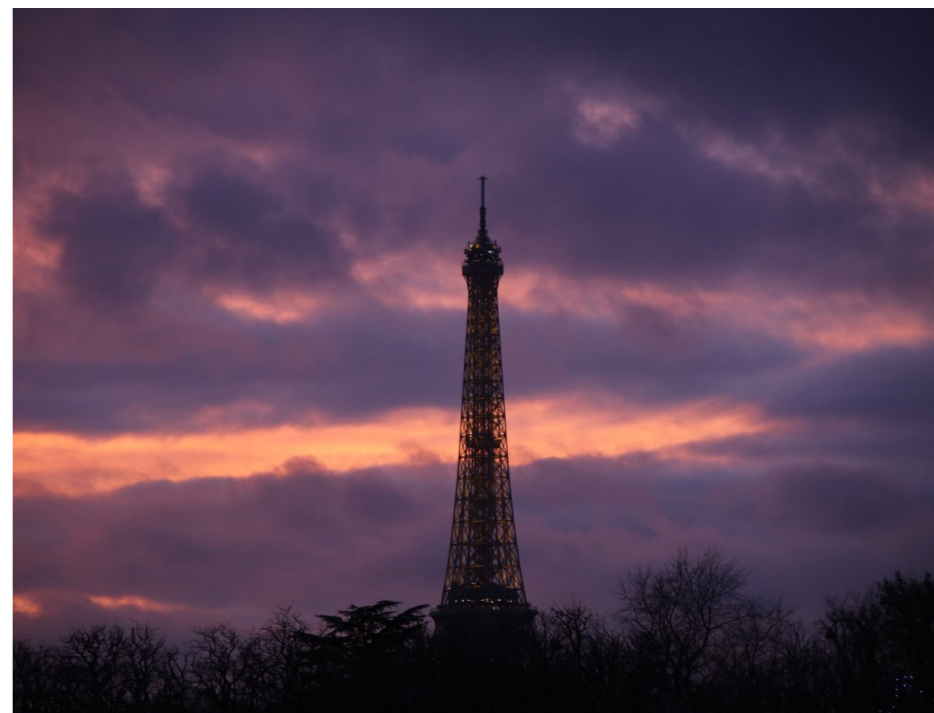
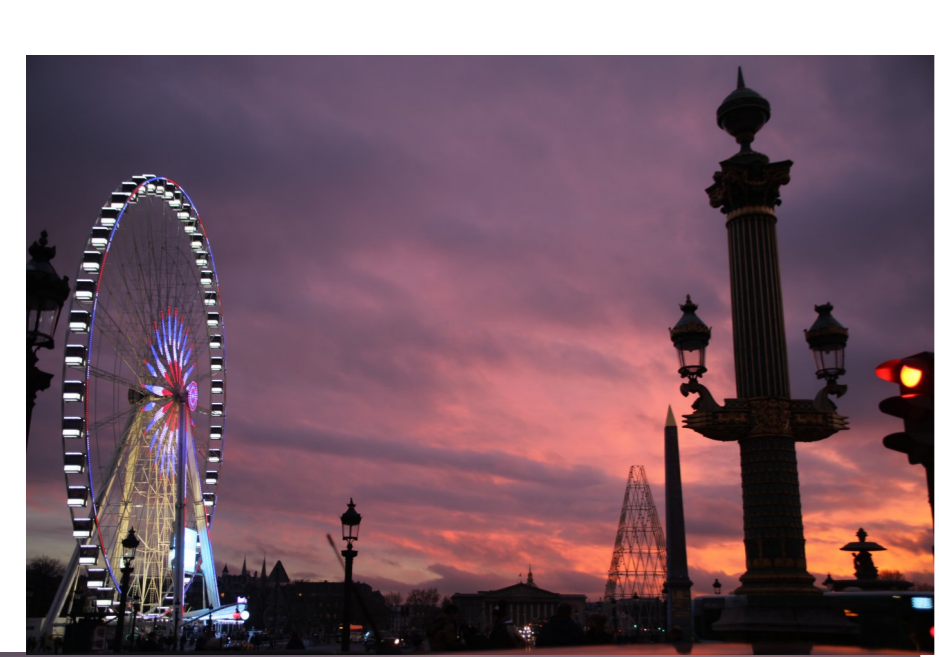
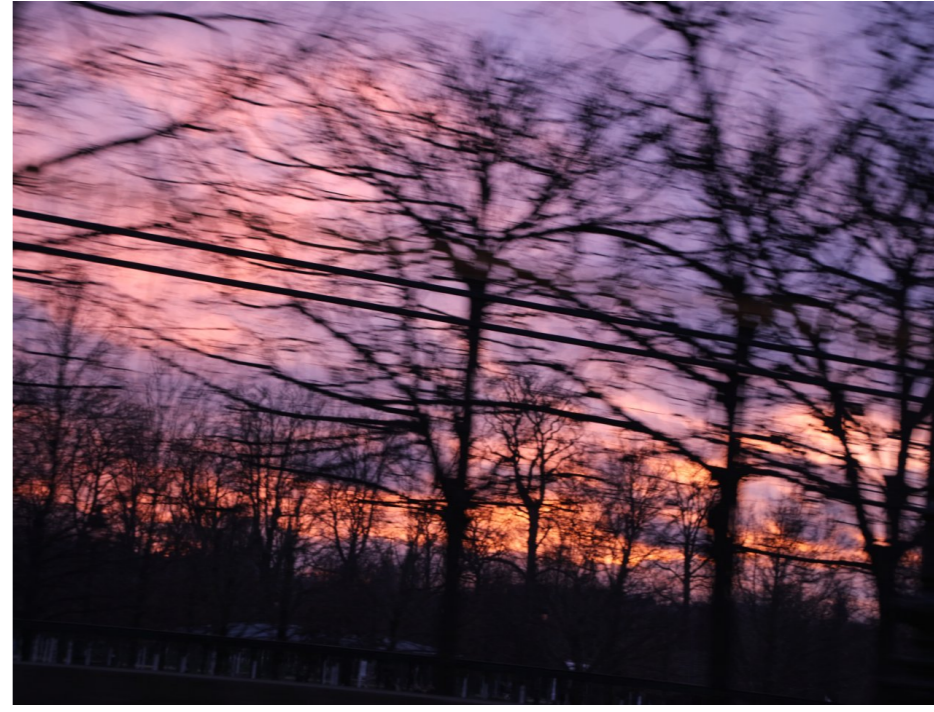














Well it had to happen. We reached our last full day in France. We took a full day tour of The Palace and Gardens of Versailles. We had a great lunch there and it was a very good day!

















